

**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE
OF BOMBAY AT PORVORIM, GOA**

P.I.L.W.P. No. 45/2019

CITIZENS FOR SONSODO, THR.
ITS SECRETARY, ROQUE
MASCARENHAS AND ANR.

....PETITIONERS

v/s.

MARGAO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
THR. ITS CHIEF OFFICER,
MARGAO & ORS

...RESPONDENTS

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT OF THE PETITIONER

I, Roque Mascarenhas, Secretary of the Petitioner No. 1 organization herein, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. I say that I have visited the Sonsoddo garbage site on 04th July 2023 to be able to apprise this Hon'ble court of the situation of garbage management at the site.

Disposal of Legacy Waste

2. With regards to the stack of RDF material, I say that the RDF is divided into two parts. One large part is fully covered, while the other, although also kept covered, is opened from time to time as and when the RDF is removed for onward transport.

3. As regards the two heaps of compost generated from the screening of the legacy waste, this Hon'ble Court was informed that the same would be disposed of in situ. The said compost is still at the site.

Management of Day to day Waste

4. Presently two major problems are subsisting at the Sonsoddo site. Firstly, the shed containing the day to day waste is completely filled to the ceiling, and the side walls appear to have broken down. Even spaces outside the shed which were vacant when the Petitioners last visited the site (05.04.23) are now filled with mixed waste. Photographs dt. 04.07.2023 showing this issue are enclosed as **Annexure 1 Colly.**
5. It appears that as a result of the mismanagement of the waste in this shed, a fire broke out on two occasions in the shed on 15th May 2023 and 30th June 2023. News reports dt. 16th May 2023 and 1st July 2023 are enclosed as **Annexure 2 Colly.**
6. The second major issue is that since the monsoons have begun in the last 3 weeks, leachate from the untreated waste / day to day waste is seeping out onto the roads/paths of the residential colonies adjacent to the dump site. Photographs dt. 04.07.2023 are enclosed as **Annexure 3.**
7. Petitioners also annex a CD at **Annexure 4** with video footage dt. 04.07.2023 which portray both these issues at the Sonsoddo site i.e. the overfilled shed and the leakage of leachate.

8. The petitioner submits that this leachate, seemingly seeping out from the RDF stacks, is a serious health hazard to the residents of buildings adjacent to the Sonsoddo site, as it can be seen passing in close proximity of the buildings.
9. The recent fire which has once again occurred at the site only compounds the safety issues at the Site, and immediate time bound action is needed to be taken by the Margao Municipal Council to resolve these issues.
10. I state that the contents of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8(p) and 9(p) of this affidavit are correct and true as per my own knowledge and newspaper reports, and that the contents of paragraphs 8(p) and 9(p) are submissions made on legal advice which I believe to be true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom, and the annexures enclosed are true and correct copies of their respective originals. I further say that the photographs and videos that are enclosed were taken personally by me on 04th July 2023 at the time of visiting the Sonsoddo site.

Solemnly affirmed at Porvorim, Goa,
this the 10th day of July 2023

Deponent

Annexure 1 Colly

[Photographs taken on 4th July 2023]

Mixed waste near the entrance to waste management shed



Collapse of side walls of waste management shed



Article published in 'The Goan' newspaper, dt. 16th May 2023

Sonsodo waste fire comes back to haunt Margao municipality

Timely action brings blaze under control

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The fire inside the Sonsodo waste management shed came back to haunt the Margao city fathers and the Babus after the piled-up garbage was engulfed by fire on Monday morning.

The fire incident brought to the fore the twin issues of carting out the piled-up waste from inside the shed and setting up a fire-fighting mechanism so that quick and timely action is initiated at the site before the arrival of the fire brigade.

Fortunately, timely fire-fighting operation by the fire services and the deployment of machinery inside the shed to churn the piled-up waste helped in bringing the fire under control.

This is not the first time that the piled-up waste inside the Sonsodo waste management shed has caught fire. In fact, it's not uncommon to find recurring fires inside the waste management shed in recent times, posing a health hazard to the residents with the smoke billowing from the shed settling down in the immediate vicinity.

Margao fire brigade rushed to Sonsodo after receiving the fire call at around 9 in the morning. The hour-long fire-fighting operation helped to bring the fire under control. Margao municipal officials also swung into action and immediately deployed heavy earth-moving machinery to churn the piled-up waste to facilitate the firefighting operation.

Even as the fire was capped after an hour-long operation, questions are being raised why the MMC has failed to keep the piled-up waste wet to avert fire incidents caused by the generation of the methane gas.



The piled-up waste inside the Sonsodo waste management shed is on fire. (Below) The fire brigade fighting the blaze.

Santosh Mirajkar

ISSUES COME TO FORE

- The fire incident brought to the fore the twin issues of carting out the piled-up waste from inside the shed and setting up a fire-fighting mechanism so that quick and timely action is initiated at the site before the arrival of the fire brigade
- Even as the fire was capped after an hour-long operation, questions are being raised why the MMC has failed to keep the piled-up waste wet to avert fire incidents caused by the generation of the methane gas

"The MMC should constantly spray water on the dump to keep the waste moist to avert recurring fires. We only hope that the civic body complies with the instruction issued to the body from time to time," remarked a fire officer.

The fire incident, sources said, comes as a wakeup call for the Margao City Fathers and the Babus to put into effect the undertaken given by the civic body to the High Court on the question of carting out the piled waste and

remediating the same and also set up the firefighting mechanism in place at the site.

After Sonsodo came under the High Court scanner, the Margao Municipal Council submitted a timeline to the High Court to cart out the piled-up waste and remediate the same within six months. Similarly, the civic body had submitted an elaborate Action plan to beef up the firefighting arrangements at Sonsodo to tackle fire incidents.



Sonsodo woes refuse to die out, waste shed in flames yet again

INCIDENT CATCHES MMC OFF GUARD WITH NO MECHANISM IN PLACE TO CONTAIN FIRE

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO

The Sonsodo waste management shed was again engulfed in fire on Friday morning, as the incident once again caught the Margao officials off guard with no mechanism in place to contain the fire despite an undertaking submitted to the High Court to set up the firefighting system at the site.

In fact, when the fire broke out at the shed, attributed to the generation of methane gas, neither fire extinguishers came in handy to bring the fire under control nor there was any water pipeline to keep the dry waste wet to contain the spread of fire.

In fact, it was left for the Margao fire brigade to bring the fire under control by spraying around 12,000 litres of water in a two-hour long operation.

The fire brigade managed to contain the fire and the smoke billowing from the waste management shed, but it has left a host of questions for the Margao city fathers and the Municipal bodies to question over the repeated failure by the civic body to set up the fire safety mechanism.

In fact, at one of the hearings in the PIL writ petition filed by the Citizens for Sonsodo, the Margao Municipal Council had given an undertaking to the High Court to set up the firefighting mechanism



Fire fighters inside the Sonsodo waste management shed to bring the fire under control.

within one month. The civic body, however, was caught napping after the Sonsodo shed was engulfed by fire over a month ago, exposing the MMC over its failure to put the mechanism in place.

When The Goan called up the MMC officials to shed light on the delay in putting the firefighting mechanism in place at Sonsodo, an official pointed out that the civic body had earlier this month tendered the work, but there were no takers for the project.

The MMC, officials said, has again re-tendered the work estimated around Rs 8.93 lakh to set up provision for firefighting such a provision for fire hydrants, water pipeline, etc at Sonsodo. "We now hope

that bidders will submit their bids so that the work is taken up at the site at the earliest," the official said.

Questions, however, are being asked as to why the civic body cannot make a simple provision for supply of water to the waste management shed by repairing the existing hose to keep the piled up waste wet. "The only way to keep the fire and smoke inside the waste management shed under control is to continuously keep the waste wet by spraying water. We have noticed that the fire and smoke inside the shed is due to the generation of methane gas, which can be kept under control by spraying water over the dump," remarked a fire officer.

Dry waste piles up at Margao railway station, yet to be lifted

MARGAO: The government has unveiled its plans to provide five-star amenities at the Margao railway station since the railway station is the gateway for hundreds, if not thousands of tourists to enter and exit the State.

It may take months for the plan to fructify, but what the Margao railway station urgently requires are measures to clean up the railway station premises of mound of dry waste.

In fact, dry waste piled up at the station premises near the Konkan railway police station has made the entire area an eyesore, with the piled up waste not lifted for days now.

The piled up dry waste at the station premises had come to light on the day of the flagging of the Vande Bharat Express train at the Margao railway station.

When The Goan called up KRC senior official, Baban Ghatge to shed light on the waste piled up inside the railway premises, he was quick to point accusing fingers at the Margao Municipal Council, saying the civic body has not lifted the waste despite the KRC making pay-



Dry waste piled up at the Margao railway station over the delay in lifting away the waste. Santosh Mirajkar

ments to the civic body.

"We have an arrangement with the Margao municipality for periodic lifting of the dry waste generated in the railway station premises. The civic body lifts away the dry waste after payment of money. But, somehow, the MMC has not cleared the waste for some time now," he said.

Ghatge said he has no idea why the MMC has delayed in lifting the waste, promising to intimate the situation to the MMC officials.

When The Goan, however, called up a MMC official to shed light on the delay in lifting away the dry waste, the official has promised to check the ground reality. He, however, hastened to add that the KRC was told in the past to stack the dry waste

in bins instead of allowing the waste to acquire the shape of a dump. "It will help the civic workers if the KRC stacks the dry waste in bags instead of throwing the same in the open," the official said.

Another senior official further pointed out that since the KRC is a bulk waste generator, the Corporation should set up a baling machine inside the railway property and hand over the dry waste after baling. "The KRC has huge land at its disposal at the Margao railway station. Since the KRC comes under the category of a bulk waste generator, it should handle its waste through a baling machine under CSR," the official added.



Annexure 3 Colly

[Photographs taken on 4th July 2023]

Leachate from RDF site flowing into/ nearby residential quarters





ANNEXURE 4 COLLY

Link to 4 videos submitted to Court on a C.D. - regarding
Sonsoddo Garbage site – dt. 04th July 2023

<https://rb.gy/8r140>